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The title of this work is somewhat misleading, as only eight of the Southern States are included, viz: Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky and Texas; and the basis for inclusion of men is not quite clear. Certainly it could not be predicated on the relative prominence of the subjects as among the states for Florida is allotted 238 pages, whereas Virginia is given only 80, Georgia 74, Kentucky 26, and Texas 24. An examination of any state will also reveal the fact that no fixed standard of prominence is set in selecting men within a state itself. However, a particular method of compilation could easily account for this.

The make-up of the book is most attractive; it is a beautiful piece of book-making. Most of the photographs are large and clear, and the paper used is of a high grade. For the clientele particularly in view, this work will serve a useful purpose, as far as it goes. There is an index of names, but no table of contents.

E. M. C.

A Life of George Westinghouse. By Henry G. Prout, C. E., A. M., LL.D (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1922, pp. xiv, 375. \$2.50.)

This is the record of a remarkable inventor, financier, and business man. He had much more to do with making America rich and powerful than many a person whose name looms large in American history as it has been written. But political affairs are fast being relegated as the only interpretation of a people or even as one of the most important. In the newer light, the history of recent America must note the name of George Westinghouse and include an account of the developments with which his name is linked. Railway transportation, electrical advancement along many lines, such as the manufacture of power, and numerous major mechanical inventions which made the the rapid industrial

progress in America possible—these things are largely beholden to George Westinghouse.

He was a New England Yankee, of a family not unknown for its mechanical skill; and in point of time he appeared on the stage of action soon enough to run away to join the Union armies in the Civil War. He attended Union College three months and came to the conclusion that more was to be learned and accomplished in his father's workshop. His first invention came in 1865, the rotary steam engine; and although it failed to come into practical use itself, it led to the rotary water meter. For the next forty-eight years, the remainder of his life, he turned out on an average one invention every eight weeks. His whole aim and thought was to better equip his own shops—he never made an invention to sell. He is best known for his air brake; but his development of the alternating current transformed the electrical world. As a business genius and organizer, he showed his ability in developing a host of companies in America and many in Europe and elsewhere. In fact he admitted his ambition was to make the world his field. A signal recognition of his integrity and capacity was his appointment with Grover Cleveland and Justice Morgan J. O'Brien on the board of trustees to save the Equitable Life Insurance Society from ruin. Among his conspicuous business deals were his contracts for lighting the Columbian World's Fair in Chicago for developing the electrical mechanics for harnessing Niagara Falls.

This book is written to a great extent in non-technical language; yet the author has developed his treatment of technical topics in so complete a manner that no engineer need feel that the subject is not adequately handled. Those who have no desires to go into the technical discussions will find much of general interest in the first and last two chapters, viz: "Introduction," "The Personality of George Westinghouse," and "The Meaning of George Westinghouse." Mr.

Prout has used his best opportunities in securing his information. Westinghouse left scanty written traces. He wrote few private letters, kept no journals or notebooks, and made few addresses. The author did the next best thing, by using wherever possible the information that Westinghouse's close business associates could give. The book contains a few illustrations, a table of contents, an appendix on the patents of Westinghouse, and a rather inadequate index. This work should prove a distinct help to those who would write or understand American history in its true sense.

E. M. C.